

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION MEETING
November 21, 2012
Reporting for the month of October 2012

AWOLs: There were **100** AWOLs involving **90** youths:
8 youth AWOL'd 2x
1 youth AWOL'd 3x

52 remain AWOL	1 TERM
20 returned to GH	1 S/P (Relative or Home)
23 are in JH	3 CCP (Camp)

Outstanding AWOL's from previous months detained in October 2012:

17 youth were arrested/detained on an outstanding Bench Warrant:

6 remain detained in JH
8 GH
1 CAMP
1 HOP
1 AWOL

Statistics and Findings regarding AWOLs in October-

- 1) 53% (the majority) of the AWOL incidents were Hispanic males over the age of 16.5 years. The overall average age of youth who AWOLed in October was 16.6 years. Additional stats:
 - 17% - Black males with an average age of 16.6 years.
 - 15% - Hispanic females with an average age of 16.3 years.
 - 6% - Black females with an average age of 16.4 years.
 - 4% - White males with an average age of 17.1 years.
 - 2% - White females with an average age of 16.6 years.
 - 2% - Males identified racially as "other" with an average age of 17.4 years.
 - 1% - Females identified racially as "other" with an average age of 17.8 years.

Recommendation:

- For the months of August, September and October, the average age and majority race of AWOLed youth remained about the same. Therefore, for all three months, Hispanic males above the age of 16 were around 40% to 50% of AWOL incidents. DPOs, Therapists, or other GH and County staff, should interview at-risk youth (mainly Hispanic males around the age of 16) to find out about certain feelings related to age, gender, or cultural stresses and consider possible solutions to decrease these feelings/stresses.
 - Inform DPOs and GH staff to be aware of the demographics that are at most risk of AWOLing. Research and identify possible methods or daily practices of assisting youth to come to a less stressful state of mind.
- 2) Continuing trend (as previous months): A correlation was detected between the time the Youth AWOLs and the time it takes for the GH to report the incident and whether or not the youth remains AWOLed or is detained). To illustrate:

Correlation between these factors (dashes represent passing time):

Time Awoled-----Time Reported-----Youth is detained
either in a GH or JH.

Time Awoled-----Time Reported-----
-----Youth is still AWOL-----
-----...

Based on statistical findings, *the sooner the GH reports the AWOL, the more likely it is that the Youth is detained within the end of the month.* For efficiency, we can call the passing period between the AWOL incident and the notification to authorities of the incident the "Idle Phase." Specifically, in October, the youth who were detained the same month they AWOLed, had an average Idle Phase (IP) of 0.94 days. However, the youth that are still AWOL had an IP of 1.19 days. This correlation has appeared for all three months.

Recommendation:

Continue monitoring monthly trends to verify a continuing trend.
Reiterate to GH staff and to legal guardians of youth the importance of reporting an AWOL as soon as the incident occurs. Specifically, all AWOLs should be reported within 24 hours in order to expedite the issuance of a bench warrant and the recovery of the youth. Statistics should be shared with GH staff to illustrate the real results of delayed reporting.

- 3) Certain GHs showed a higher percentage of youth AWOLs than other GHs. This was determined by taking the number of AWOLs for that month and comparing it to the number of beds available in the GH.

Recommendation:

- Continue to track the frequency of AWOLs for each GH and see if a consistent pattern remains amongst the same group homes.
- Investigate GHs that have an unusual high number of AWOLs compared to other GHs to see possible reasons.
- Interview youth during investigation.
- Create a plan of action based on results (directives for GH, staff training, etc).
- Monitor GH to see if trend has stopped after implementation of programs or directives.

- 4) Similar to the previous months, there was a noteworthy trend or correlation found related to IP between bench warrant requests and bench warrant issued and effect on youth detainment: In October if the AWOL incident had an IP of 4 or more (4 days had passed between BWR and BWI) it was significantly less likely that youth would be detained by the end of the month (only 0 to 2 detained).
- 5) However if the IP was be 0 to 3 days, the number of youth detained was 3 to 4. The same trend was uncovered in August and September.

Recommendation:

Work with agencies/courts involved in processing bench warrant requests to speed up the issuance of a bench warrant after a request has been made to increase the chances of recovering the youth.

- 6) In both August and September, there were no significant findings or relationship found between AWOLing and date of first contact with the DPO. In October, stats were altered to track trends found relating to date of AWOL and date of last contact with DPO. It was found that the majority of AWOLs occurred within 31 days after the most recent contact (last) contact with DPO.

Recommendation:

Whether or not the findings of this trend are significant is up to interpretation. This data will be continued to be tracked for future discussion.

- 7) Information and findings were also gathered regarding suitable placement dates and AWOL dates. Here is the data for August, September and October:

<u>August:</u> 22% AWOLed within 7 days of SP 52% AWOLed within 30 days of SP 43% AWOLed after a month of SP	<u>September:</u> 23% AWOLed within 7 days of SP 41% AWOLed within 30 days of SP 59% AWOLed after a month of SP	<u>October:</u> 15% AWOLed within 7 days of SP 35% AWOLed within 30 days of SP 65% AWOLed after a month of SP
---	--	--

Final Remarks on AWOLs: There was a 28% increase in AWOLs in October compared to September (This could be explored further to discover possible causes; However, the number of AWOLs for October 2012 was almost exactly the same as the number of AWOLs for October 2011 and 2011 also had a significant increase of AWOLs from September to October). In October, certain trends relating to race, age, and sex continued to mirror August's and September's findings. In addition, correlations related to IP periods continued to occur in the same pattern as the two previous months. There are other trends that could be revealed (such as correlation between Gang affiliation and AWOLing or incidents; DPO and number of AWOLs per DPO).

iTrack (SIRs)-

There were no child deaths reported for the month of October in iTrack. However, there was one attempted suicide in a group home (SIR# 308963). The situation was normalized and the youth was taken to a hospital. The largest category for SIRs continued to be "other", providing no description of the type of incident the youth was involved in.

Recommendation:

Instruct all iTrack users to NOT select the category "other," unless incident undeniably does not belong under any specific category. Another option is to remove the category "other," and instead add additional specific categories (once it is determined why users are selecting "other").

GROUP HOME MONITORING AND INVESTIGATIONS:

Current:

Ettie Lee- Diamond L Ranch and Robertson Memorial remain on an **investigative hold**, meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2012 (reasons below under Group Home Investigations).

Child Abuse, we had 1 referral, which was **Unfounded** for physical abuse.

Eggleston- **Unfounded** allegation for physical abuse. Youth alleged that a staff at Eggleston Youth Center choked him and slapped a "cup of noodles" out of his hand.

Group Home Investigations:

We had 5 Group Home investigations during the month of October, 3 were **Unfounded**, and 2 were **Substantiated**.

Dimondale (Lancaster)- Allegation finding **Unfounded**. DPO alleged that the youth at the GH are using the internet without blockers and can access inappropriate sites.

CAOF (Harvey)- Allegation **Unfounded**. Youth was able to access a locked garage and got in and gave a youth his property without staff following protocol.

Trinity Apple Valley- Allegation was **Unfounded**. Anonymous caller alleged that staff is using Los Angeles County youth against other staff.

Ettie Lee (Diamond L Ranch)- Allegation was **Substantiated**. Youths were involved in a gang related fight with three other youth in the community. Supervision issue, as the youth were in the backyard of the GH.

Ettie Lee (Robertson Memorial - Allegation was **Substantiated**. Youth was physically and verbally harassing a TBS worker that was leaving the GH. Youth threatened the TBS worker and told her, "You are going to get raped tonight". The TBS worker did not tell anyone about and the youth's threats. The youth subsequently went back in the home agitated and engaged in property damage.

Monitoring:

We have 1 posted, 6 in various stages of approval, 4 are about to be posted (holiday delay) (total of 23). Training has been completed for the 2012-2013, fiscal year, and monitoring assignments are beginning.

Permanency-

We are in various stages of preparation for 4 potential adoptions and 5 potential legal guardianships by the early part of next year.

In October 2012 we completed no Adoptions or Legal Guardianships.